



Glendale Arizona Historical Society

"preservation of the past"

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Volume 44 Issue 2

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday February 27
7:00 PM

History of the Glendale
Arizona Library System

Greg Kinder

Administrative Librarian

Monday March 27

7:00 PM

History of the Federation of
Women's Clubs

Grace Kobojeck

Arizona State President



History of the Glendale Arizona Library System

Greg Kinder, Administrative Librarian

Monday February 27 7:00 PM

Did you know that the Glendale Public Library officially became a part of our city government a century ago, on December 26, 1922? We've come a long way from our humble beginnings in 1895, with just 400 books in the office of a downtown lumberyard. To help us celebrate our Centennial as the "heartbeat of the community," Glendale Public Library is offering a series of free programs focusing on history and our Arizona heritage. Greg Kinder, Administrative Librarian in charge of the Velma Teague Branch, will be on hand to talk about the library's lineup of decade-themed crafts for all ages, children's events, keynote speakers, and much more through May 2023.

Visit gplaz.org/glendale100 to view our current month's "Glendale 100" program selection.

Greg was hired as a librarian for the Glendale Public Library in February of 2002. During his time at GPL, Greg has had the opportunity to serve the Glendale community as an adult reference librarian, a teen programming coordinator, and in his current administrative position.

OSTRICHES FLOCK TO GLENDALE IN THE 1900s

By Jodi Decker



In the early 1900s, ostrich plume hats were all the fashion rage for fine ladies. This created an opportunity for Arizona ranchers, including those in the Glendale area. According to Carol and Charles St. Clair in the book *Images of America Glendale*, (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006, p. 40) an ostrich could produce one and a half pounds of feathers per year over a period of 20 years. A pound of feathers sold for \$75. In 1913, 8,000 ostriches were in Arizona. A family is seen in a photo visiting a Glendale ostrich farm around 1915. After World War I, when ladies' fashions changed, the industry collapsed.

Cowboys were used to herd the ostriches. A photo depicts a cowboy at a field located at 99th Ave. and Glendale Ave. (Veldhuis, Debbie. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2010, pp. 45-46). The ostrich diet featured alfalfa grown in Glendale, which created a unique luster to their feathers. An ostrich could produce a crop of feathers every eight months until it reached 50 or 60 years old. The ostrich feathers were not only used to adorn ladies' hats, but also to decorate the carriage horses of the day. Plumes are still used today in the making of costumes or for ceremonial purposes.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I would like to begin by saying thank you for the privilege of serving as the President of this great organization. Since I began volunteering with the historical society, I have always been in awe of the depth of Glendale history among the members. Growing up, my family moved every few years, making it difficult to grow roots. I have been proud to call Glendale home since 2002. The year ahead of me will be busy learning all the nuances of the society as well as getting to know its members.

Thank you to Ron Short for the 10 years that he has served as President. You have been such an asset to the society. Thank you to Nelda Crowell and Bill Greb for their service on our board as directors. I would also like to welcome our three new directors: Randi Turk, Al Lenox, and Kathy Goreé. Thank you to the current and returning officers and directors: VP Gary Sherwood; Treasurer Marty Cole; Secretary Jessica Koory; Director Martha Dennis and Director Lorraine Zomok. I look forward to working with this wonderful group, being stewards of Glendale’s history.

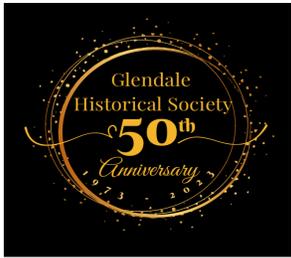
**ARIZONA EARLY DAY GAS ENGINE AND TRACTOR
ASSN . SHOW**
Saturday and Sunday February 11 and 12, 2023
9:00 AM—3:00 PM
SAHUARO RANCH PARK
9802 N . 59th Avenue Glendale, Arizona



Admission is \$5 per person

Children under 12 are FREE with a paying adult

The show will have a variety of gas engines and tractors from early agricultural times. This event will include engine displays and demonstrations, pulls, crafters, children’s activities, hayrides and tours of the historic Sahuaro Ranch Guest House.



50 Years Ago the Glendale Arizona Historical Society was born

Throughout this year, the Glendale Arizona Historical Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary with special programs, a renewal of vows ceremony on March 18, and a variety of games, facts, and stories of the past 50 years. The following article contains quotes from the August 29, 1973 issue of the Glendale Herald News.

The year was 1973 when a group of civic-minded citizens decided the time had come for Glendale to have a formal historical society. An organizational meeting was held on August 27th of that year. According to the *Glendale Herald News* of the time, “Some 45 persons attended...representing a cross-section of the populace, both very young, and very old. Students from the two high schools and GCC were present, and a history teacher, Dean Winslow, from Glendale High. Also a past mayor, old timer natives and a brand new family, here only since July.”

Glendale High School District official Ron Murphy, who presided over the meeting, emphasized Glendale’s Spanish heritage and likened Glendale’s lure to the inscription on the Statue of Liberty. He said, “people need to know why their predecessors chose to come to a land ‘unfit for habitation’. We need to provide for this community some idea of what they are, some idea of who they are, and some idea of where they are going,” Murphy philosophized.

Sahuaro Ranch, Glendale's Prize Possession

The City of Glendale is currently undertaking a revision to the Master Plan for Sahuaro Ranch. A recent survey had 170 responses that showed more than 100 of the respondents visited the ranch daily or weekly. The reasons for visiting the ranch were mainly for 1) walking paths, 2) the historic areas, 3) community events, 4) private events, and 5) playground. Of the proposed improvements respondents ranked the following highest: 1) restoring historic groves, 2) planting trees along the walking paths, 3) renovate restrooms, 4) create educational walking pathways with signage.

(The following is an edited version of a 1980 article by Thelma Heatwole, a longtime Glendale resident and highly respected journalist.)

GLENDALE'S SAHUARO RANCH, Part I

A two-part article by Thelma Heatwole

An 80-acre ranch, once a showplace in the Valley of the Sun, is now the prized possession of the City of Glendale. The estate with its towering old shade, date grove, pecan trees, and citrus orchard also features keepsake old houses. It is cherished because of its historical background that dates back before Arizona gained statehood.

The landmark property is located on 59th Avenue north of Glendale Community College, a strategic location for its enjoyment by the populace. According to old tract records, the land was purchased by the Arizona Canal Company from the Territory of Arizona (the U.S. Government) in the mid-1880s.

But in 1887, William H. Bartlett acquired the land from the canal company, receiving a deed for a portion of the property and an agreement to pay the government the balance. In sequence, a certificate of ownership, dated November 8, 1890, from the U.S. Land office, designates the purchase by William H. Bartlett of "all of Section 30 in Township 3 North of Range two, east of Gila and Salt River Meridian in Arizona Territory," This historic purchase of desert land was during the presidency of Benjamin Harrison. It is significant, too, that the purchase was two years before the hamlet of Glendale was founded.

According to available records, it was during the Bartlett ownership that the big ranch house and the accompanying sizable guest house complete with wine cellar were built. The first building was constructed in 1890 and two others in 1891, the exact sequence, however, is not known. No building permits, of course, were required in Territorial Arizona so the precise time of construction is difficult to pinpoint. The beautiful houses were used for entertaining customers lavishly far from home.

According to tract records, the land was in Bartlett family's hands until 1915. Afterward there followed a succession of owners of all or part of the land. Among them were such names as M. W. Alworth, Lucy and P. E. Bradshaw, the Western Cattle Co., the Valley Bank. In 1924, the deed was put up for sale by the sheriff.

In 1927, according to records, the ranch came into the lengthy ownership of Richard W. Smith and his wife, Lottie Sands Smith. Richard S. (Dick) Smith, their son from whom the city purchased the property (along with other heirs), has firsthand recollections of the property. Smith said his mother purchased the farm in 1925 or 1926 at the suggestion of her brother, Louis M. Sands, who had settled in the valley about 1906 with the purchase of what he named Manistee Ranch [now owned by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society and located at 51st Ave. and Northern Ave.]. At that time, the existing improvements were in a dilapidated condition although obviously the farm had seen much better days, Smith said.

An existing adobe building, he said, was apparently the first structure built when the ranch was a working cattle outfit and something of an oasis in the desert. The red brick house on the north was the first ranch house proper, apparently, he added, and served as a combination quarters for the foreman's family and the hired hands.

"I remember some rather sophisticated landscaping, including a lagoon and sunken garden just west of the horse barn (which I have been told was sometimes used for large parties). There was nearly an acre of rose garden in front of the main houses," Smith said.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

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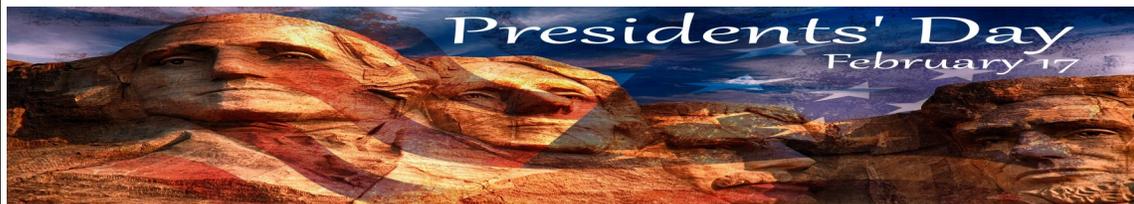
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Your Governing Board of Directors

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Glendale Arizona Historical Society is designated as a Certified Historical Society

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



HISTORICAL TOURS

MANISTEE RANCH 1897 HOUSE

5127 W. NORTHERN AVENUE (enter from the parking lot on 51st Avenue)

Tours are conducted by the Glendale Arizona Historical Society docents from October through May: noon to 4 pm (last tour starts at 3 pm). Fees: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Veterans \$4, Ages 6-16 \$1, GAHS MEMBERS FREE.

The 2023 tour dates are the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month—Jan. 7, 21; Feb. 4, 18; March 4, 18; April 1, 15; May 6

SAHUARO RANCH 1898 GUEST HOUSE

9802 N 59th Ave. Glendale AZ

FREE TOURS of the Guest House by appointment only: Donations accepted



IN MEMORY
Roy Stewart